

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PER-01 IO-03 SSO-00 CCO-00 /023 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:WGRAMSAY:JWM

APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE

M/DG:MR.WORTZEL

IO/UNP:JBAKER

AF/W:TWMSMITH

AF/EX:EGKRYZA

S/S:JLHOGANSON

S: RAHERNE

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104092 TOSEC 110400

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IV, USUN, APER (SMITH, ROBERT S.)

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM - PROPOSED RESPONSE TO MESSAGE
FROM PRESIDENT OF IVORY COAST (S/S NO.7608963)

REFS: USUN 1784; STATE 103217 (TOSEC 319)

FOR SECRETARY FROM SEELYE THROUGH SCHAUFLE
THE PROBLEM

IVORY COAST PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY HAD HIS PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE AT UN, AMBASSADOR AKE, PASS MESSAGE TO YOU
THROUGH GOVERNOR SCRANTON EXPRESSING HIS PERSONAL REGRET
THAT PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS IN EUROPE PREVENTED HIS BEING
IN IVORY COAST DURING YOUR VISIT TO AFRICA. PRESIDENT
HOUPHOUET EXPRESSED HIS GREAT RESPECT FOR OUR AMBASSADOR
IN ABIDJAN, ROBERT S. SMITH, AND HIS HOPE THAT AMBASSADOR
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SMITH'S "RECALL" COULD BE CANCELLED. THE PRESIDENT WANTED

YOU TO KNOW PERSONALLY THAT HE HOPED THAT THERE WAS NO LINKAGE BETWEEN HIS ABSENCE FROM AFRICA DURING YOUR TRIP AND THE RECALL OF AMBASSADOR SMITH.

GOVERNOR SCRANTON HAS REQUESTED YOUR GUIDANCE IN RELAYING A RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT THROUGH AMBASSADOR AKE.

BACKGROUND

WHEN IT WAS LEARNED THAT PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY WOULD BE IN EUROPE FROM MID-APRIL TO MID-MAY, YOU DECIDED TO DELETE IVORY COAST FROM THE ITINERARY OF YOUR AFRICA TRIP. AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME, BUT IN NO WAY CONNECTED WITH THIS DECISION, AMBASSADOR SMITH WAS INFORMED THAT HE WOULD BE RE-ASSIGNED AT THE CONCLUSION OF A NORMAL TOUR OF DUTY IN ABIDJAN (HE PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS APRIL 12, 1974). WE EXPECT AMBASSADOR SMITH TO DEPART FROM ABIDJAN IN MID-MAY.

RECOMMENDATION:

M/DG, IO AND AF RECOMMEND THAT YOU AUTHORIZE GOVERNOR SCRANTON TO DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO AMBASSADOR AKE FOR PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET:

QUOTE: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I TOO VERY MUCH REGRET THAT YOUR PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS IN EUROPE MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO MEET WITH YOU IN THE COURSE OF MY PRESENT VISIT TO AFRICA. I WISH TO ASSURE YOU THAT I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY THE REASONS WHICH PREVENTED OUR MEETING IN ABIDJAN. I VERY MUCH HOPE THAT WE WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO MEET ON SOME FUTURE OCCASION. THANK YOU FOR YOUR EXPRESSION OF CONFIDENCE IN AMBASSADOR SMITH. HIS RE-ASSIGNMENT IS A ROUTINE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER AND HAS ABSOLUTELY NO OTHER SIGNIFICANCE, I CAN ASSURE YOU. I VALUE THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP WHICH SO HAPPILY EXIST BETWEEN IVORY COAST AND THE UNITED STATES AND I AM CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL REMAIN UNDISTURBED IN THE YEARS AHEAD. PLEASE ACCEPT MY WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS.

UNQUOTE.

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APPROVE DISAPPROVE

DRAFTED: AF/W:WGRAMSAY:JWM -

CLEARANCES: M/DG:MR. WORTZEL; IO/UNP:JBAKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, POLICIES, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: S7608963
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE104092
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WGRAMSAY:JWM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760164-0284
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976042/aaaaabdx.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 76 STATE 103217
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 SEP 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ACTION MEMORANDUM - PROPOSED RESPONSE TO MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT OF IVORY COAST (S/S NO.7608963)
TAGS: PFOR, APER, OVIP, US, IV, UN, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX), (SMITH, ROBERT S)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006